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903 US PRO
09/026896
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The United States of America



The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Has received an application for a patent for new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extensions.

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Sandra L. Morton
Attest

United States Patent

Iwasaki

[19]

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[11] Patent Number: 6,145,023

[45] Date of Patent: *Nov. 7, 2000

[54] INFORMATION STORAGE AND INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM UTILIZING STATE-DESIGNATING MEMBER PROVIDED ON SUPPORTING CARD SURFACE WHICH PRODUCES WRITE-PERMITTING OR WRITE-INHIBITING SIGNAL

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[*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

[21] Appl. No.: 08/592,508

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[52] U.S. Cl. 710/13; 710/8; 340/870.16; 361/684; 361/737; 455/41; 360/133

[58] Field of Search 340/870.16; 361/684, 361/737; 235/492; 455/41; 360/133; 710/13, 8

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ABSTRACT

In a small and thin memory module for sharing data among electronic devices such as information processing apparatuses, a write prohibit state can be visually recognized. A conductive seal is attached to a predetermined position on a support member, thereby setting the memory module in the write prohibit state. The conductive seal visually indicates the write prohibit state. When the memory module is mounted in a connector section of a card-shaped holder, connector pins are electrically connected to each other via the conductive seal. Thus, a write prohibit mechanism is realized at low cost.

36 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

